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MAY SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA TRIP

During May 1953 approximately 20 members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society were in the field in the Chiricahua, Huachuca, and Santa Rita mountain areas of southeastern Arizona, as well as in the lower desert regions surrounding these "mountain islands". Some of the society members had been in the area previously, but to most it was a new experience. In the number of species to be seen, this part of the great Southwest is exceedingly rich — in spite of limited time we were able to run up a list of 159 species. As might be expected where so many different types of birds are found, the terrain is highly varied, ranging from the low Sonoran desert where sahuaro cactus, mesquite, and yuccas predominate, to elevations of nearly 10,000 feet where peaks covered with ponderosa pine and quaking aspen surround mountain meadows decked with wild iris, columbine, and larkspur. In between these two extremes lies a great belt of oaks girding the middle elevations.

In the Chiricahuas, the largest of the three ranges, is located the Chiricahua National Monument, often referred to as the "Wonderland of Rocks." Here the bizarre collection of pinnacles, buttresses, and towers of rock makes a scenic spectacle alone worth the journey. Across the range lies Cave Creek Canyon with its vermilion-tinted walls, which many believe worthy of National Monument status. The willow-bordered stream which flows through it is the habitat of such exotic species as the blue-throated hummingbird, sulfur-bellied flycatcher, and painted redstart. Many of the species which barely range over our southern border do not arrive in these cooler mountain regions until mid-May, when the canyons at approximately 7000 feet are alive with the songs of Scott oriole, red-faced and Grace warblers, and canyon wren. The Mexican chickadee, found only in the Chiricahuas and adjacent mountains of extreme southwestern New Mexico, is a common resident of the pine belt from 7000 feet up.

In this land where the Apache, led by Cochise and Geronimo, once defied the white invaders so tenaciously, comfortable guest ranches and campgrounds make it a veritable paradise for the bird-watchers of today. It is hoped that the experience gained by those who went to southeastern Arizona this year will stimulate more birders to visit this area in future years.

Dr. and Mrs. Foree were fortunate in being able to spend some three weeks in this region, and in addition to observing many species of birds, saw such mammals as the coatimundi and peccary. The Forees have very kindly loaned their list of birds so that we are able to present here our combined lists.

The following 102 species were found in the Chiricahua Mountain region: t. and blk. vultures; Cooper, red-t., Swainson, and zone-t. hawks; g. eagle; sp. hawk; scaled and Gambel quails; turkey; band-t. pigeon; white-winged, mour., and Inca doves; road-runner; elf owl; whip-poor-will; white-thr. swift; black-ch. and blue-thr. hummingbirds; red-sh. flicker; acorn, hairy, and Ariz. woodpeckers; w. and Cassin kingbirds; sulfur-bellied, ash-th., and olivaceous flycatchers; blk. and Say phoebes; w. and buff-br. flycatchers; w. wood pewee; Coues, olive-sided, and verm. flycatchers; hor. lark; violet-gr. swallow; p. martin; Steller and Ariz. jays; common and white-necked ravens; Mex. chickadee; bridled titmouse; bush-tit; white-br. and pygmy nuthatches; br. creeper; Bewick, canyon, and rock wrens; mockingbird; robin; hermit and olive-b. thrushes; w. bluebird; Town. solitaire; ruby-cr. kinglet; log. shrike; Hutton, sol., and warb. vireos; orange-cr., Virginia, yellow, Audubon, black-thr. gray, Townsend and Grace warblers; yellow-br. chat; red-faced and pil. warblers; painted redstart; e. and w. meadowlarks; red-wing; hooded, Scott and Bullock orioles; brown-headed cowbird; w., hepatic and summer tanagers; cardinal; blk.-h. grosbeak; laz. bunting; house finch; pine siskin; Am. goldfinch; green-t., sp., and br. towhees; lark, rufous-cr., and desert sparrows; Ariz. junco; chip., white-cr., and song sparrows.

The following 57 species were found elsewhere in Arizona: pied-b. grebe; double-cr. cormorant; grt.-bl. heron; Am. and snowy egrets; grn. and blk.-cr. n. herons; white-faced glossy ibis; ruddy duck; Mex. black hawk; prairie and pereg. falcons; coot; killdeer; blk.-n. stilt; Cal. gull; Forster tern; ground dove; horned owl; common and lesser nighthawks; broad-tailed and broad-billed hummingbirds; belted kingfisher; gilded flicker; Gila and ladder-backed woodpeckers; Ariz. crested and beardless flycatchers; rough-w. and cliff swallows; verdin; dipper; cactus wren; Bendire, curve-billed, and sage thrashers; blue-gray and black-tailed gnatcatchers; cedar waxwing; phainopepla; Bell and gray vireos; Lucy warbler; yellow-throat; house sparrow; yellow-h. and Br. blackbirds; boat-t. grackle; red-eyed cowbird; pyrrhuloxia; varied bunting; lesser goldfinch; Abert towhee; lark bunting; vesper and Brewer sparrows.

— Harry C. Adamson, *Leader and Historian.*

The Editor wishes to announce his change of address to 751 Balra Drive, El Cerrito 8.

APRIL TRIP TO ARROYO MOCHO

Despite threatening clouds which later gave forth a cold wind and some rain, about 45 members and guests participated on April 19 in the annual spring field trip to the McCoy Ranch and vicinity in the lower Arroyo Mocho, southeast of Livermore. The morning was spent afoot on the ranch, where many wildflowers were in bloom, including two patches of golden currant of which the ownership was disputed by hummingbirds of two species. Magpies, bush-tits, and house wrens were found nesting. An unexpected species at this locality was the greater yellow-legs. Sprinkles at lunch time did not deter anyone from the early afternoon visit to the area near the bridge upstream from the McCoy ranch, where the usual phainopeplas were found — a male and a female, in oaks with lots of mistletoe.

The following 59 species were observed, either at the McCoy ranch or at this later stop: t. vulture; red-t. hawk; g. eagle; sp. hawk; Cal. quail; killdeer; gr. yellow-legs; band-t. pigeon; mour. dove; Vaux and white-thr. swifts; Anna and rufous (or Allen?) hummingbirds; red-sh. flicker; acorn, Lewis, downy and Nut. woodpeckers; w. kingbird; ash-th. flycatcher; blk. phoebe; violet-gr., rough-w., and cliff swallows; scrub jay; yellow-b. magpie; pl. titmouse; bush-tit; house and Bew. wrens; mockingbird; Cal. thrasher; robin; w. bluebird; ruby-cr. kinglet; water pipit; cedar waxwing; phainopepla; log. shrike; Aud. warbler; yellow-throat; pil. warbler; house sparrow; w. meadowlark; red-wing; Bullock oriole; Br. blackbird; brown-headed cowbird; blk.-h. grosbeak; house finch; pine siskin; Am. and lesser goldfinches; br. towhee; Sav., lark, white-cr., golden-cr., and song sparrows.

— Howard L. Cogswell, *Leader and Historian.*

JUNE TRIP TO MT. HAMILTON SPRINGS

Twenty-seven persons turned out for this trip, about half this number camping out Saturday night. Perfect weather was enjoyed, one member even braving the cool water of Isabel Creek for a short swim. Golden eagle was a notable observation and a dipper posed very obligingly but probably the most exciting thing was the abundance of Lawrence goldfinches; they were all through the camping area in numbers. Two pacific rattlesnakes (Crotalus oreganus) were caught, examined, and given their freedom again. The following 71 species were observed: green heron; t. vulture; Cooper and red-t. hawks; g. eagle; sp. hawk; Cal. quail; coot; killdeer; band-t. pigeon; mour. dove; horned owl; common nighthawk (Sather); Anna and Allen hummingbirds; bel. kingfisher; red-sh. flicker; Cal., Lewis, hairy, downy, and Nut. woodpeckers; w. kingbird; ash-thr. flycatcher; blk. phoebe; w. flycatcher; w. wood pewee; olive-s. flycatcher; violet-gr. and rough-w. swallows; p. martin; Steller and scrub jays; yellow-b. magpie; common raven; ch.-b. chickadee; pl. titmouse; bush-tit; white-br. nuthatch; creeper; wren-tit; dipper; house, winter, Bewick, canyon and rock wrens; mockingbird; robin; w. bluebird; solitary and warb. vireos; orange-cr. and blk.-th. gray warblers; yellow-br. chat; w. meadowlark; red-wing; Bull. oriole; Br. blackbird; w. tanager; blk.-h. grosbeak; laz. bunting; purple and house finches; lesser and Lawrence goldfinches; sp. and br. towhees; lark sparrow; Ore. junco; chip. sparrow.

— Harry C. Adamson, *Leader and Historian.*

The Education Committee selected Herbert Wong of Oakland for a full campership to the Connecticut Audubon Camp, and Mrs. Marye Culver Smith of Walnut Creek for a full campership at the California Audubon Camp, which is being held at the Sugar Bowl near Donner Summit. Two-week sessions begin on July 1, 15 and 29, and on Aug. 12. For further information contact the N. A. S. office in San Francisco at the address given on the last page. It has been announced that Vaughan MacCaughey, who directed the camp last summer, will be unable to do so this year; his replacement is William N. Goodall of Pomona.

JULY MEETING

The 430th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, Oak and 14th Streets, on July 9th, at 7:30 p.m. Following the business meeting, two of Walt Disney's films will be shown — "Nature's Half Acre" and "Beaver Valley." No-host dinner at Zerikote's by Lake Merritt at 6 o'clock.

— DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

JULY TRIP TO MOSS LANDING

On July 12 to Moss Landing where we will meet the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society for a joint field trip to see nesting Forster and least terns, snowy plovers, avocets, and possibly black-necked stilts. Those who would like to sleep out in a picturesque setting are invited to camp Saturday night at Fremont Peak State Park near San Juan Batista. This site is very little out of the way on the road to Moss Landing where the group will meet at the junction of No. 1 Highway and Construction Road (just north of the bridge over Elkhorn Slough, between Watsonville and Castroville) at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather, Walnut 1-4683 (San Francisco). Bring lunch, binoculars, telescope, and interested friends.

JULY TRIP TO LAND'S END

On Saturday, July 25, to Land's End in northwest San Francisco. We cannot promise the skua seen two years ago but perhaps nesting pigeon guillemots or other more common sea birds will suffice. Adjacent spots such as the Cliff House and Lincoln Park will be included. Meet at Point Lobos Ave. and Camino Del Mar at 9 a.m. Leader, Edward A. Mayers, West 1-2447 (San Francisco). Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Field Trips Chairman.*

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
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